

Capsule Summary
SM-712
Camp E. W. Brown
Scotland
Public

1936

Located on the site of Smithwood (SM-23), a plantation long owned by members of the Smith family, Camp Ernest W. Brown was established in 1936 by the Metropolitan Police Clubs of Washington D.C. Named in memory of Ernest W. Brown (then superintendent of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C.), the camp has served as a vital rural hiatus for the young children of Washington DC. According to local historian Regina Hammett, the camp's fifty cabins can "accommodate 350 campers at a time. The usual stay is two weeks, and during a typical summer, 1,400 to 1,700 vacation" there.

Surrounded by stands of tall pines, the layout of the camp consists of two open squares of bunkhouses that flank a central dirt road. At the head of the road are a number of camp administration buildings, a shelter for a fire truck, a dining hall, playing fields, basketball courts, and a swimming pool. Over the years the buildings of the camp have been repaired, altered, and replaced but the camp still conveys the feeling of its original appearance and function.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. SM-712

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Camp E. W. Brown

other

2. Location

street and number 49300 Camp Brown Road not for publication

city, town Scotland vicinity

county St. Mary's County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Metropolitan Police Boys Club

street and number 4103 Benning Rd. NE telephone

city, town Washington state DC zip code 20019

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse tax map and parcel TM-73, P-28

city, town Leonardtown liber JMM 9 folio 500

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	50+/-
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	50+/-
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. SM-712

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Situated on the banks of the Potomac River and shaded by stands of tall pines is Camp E. W. Brown. Approached via Camp Brown Road, this summer recreational facility features two squares of cabins that straddle the main camp road. Administration buildings, a water tower, dining rooms, basketball courts, and playing fields in varying degrees of repair virtually surround the cabins. The topography of the camp is flat and relatively low and is prone to insect infestation. The property is bounded by wooded and agricultural tracts to the east, Biscoe Creek to the north, the Potomac River to the west, and Potter Creek to the south.

Established in 1936, Camp Ernest W. Brown is a mid-twentieth century example of a boys camp. Approximately fifty, one-story frame bunk houses form two open squares that flank the main camp road. The inexpensive construction of these buildings echo their seasonal use. The cabins rest on concrete pier foundations and have walls sheathed with board-and-batten siding and/or plywood. The gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingle roofs. A majority of these small bunkhouses are fenestrated by screened openings protected by wood shutters that can be propped open and usually feature a single door entry. Some of these houses have been altered, repaired, and replaced since the 1930s, but their construction and overall arrangement closely follow original appearances.

At the southwestern terminus of the camp road lie a number of camp administration buildings, a shelter for a fire truck, a pool, playing fields, basketball courts, and a dining hall. A water tower is situated to the east of the cabins along the camp road. Overall the camp deserves further documentation as a relatively intact example of a 1930s boys camp.

8. Significance

Inventory No. SM-712

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1936

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. SM-712

Hammett, Regina Combs. History of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1634-1990. Ridge: Self-published, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 168 acres
Acreage of historical setting 168 acres
Quadrangle name Point Lookout

Quadrangle scale: 1:24 000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Camp E. W. Brown is bounded by wooded and agricultural tracts to the east, Biscoe Creek to the north, the Potomac River to the west, and Potter Creek to the south. The property is noted as consisting of two parcels of approximately 168 acres as noted in the St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 9, Folio 500.

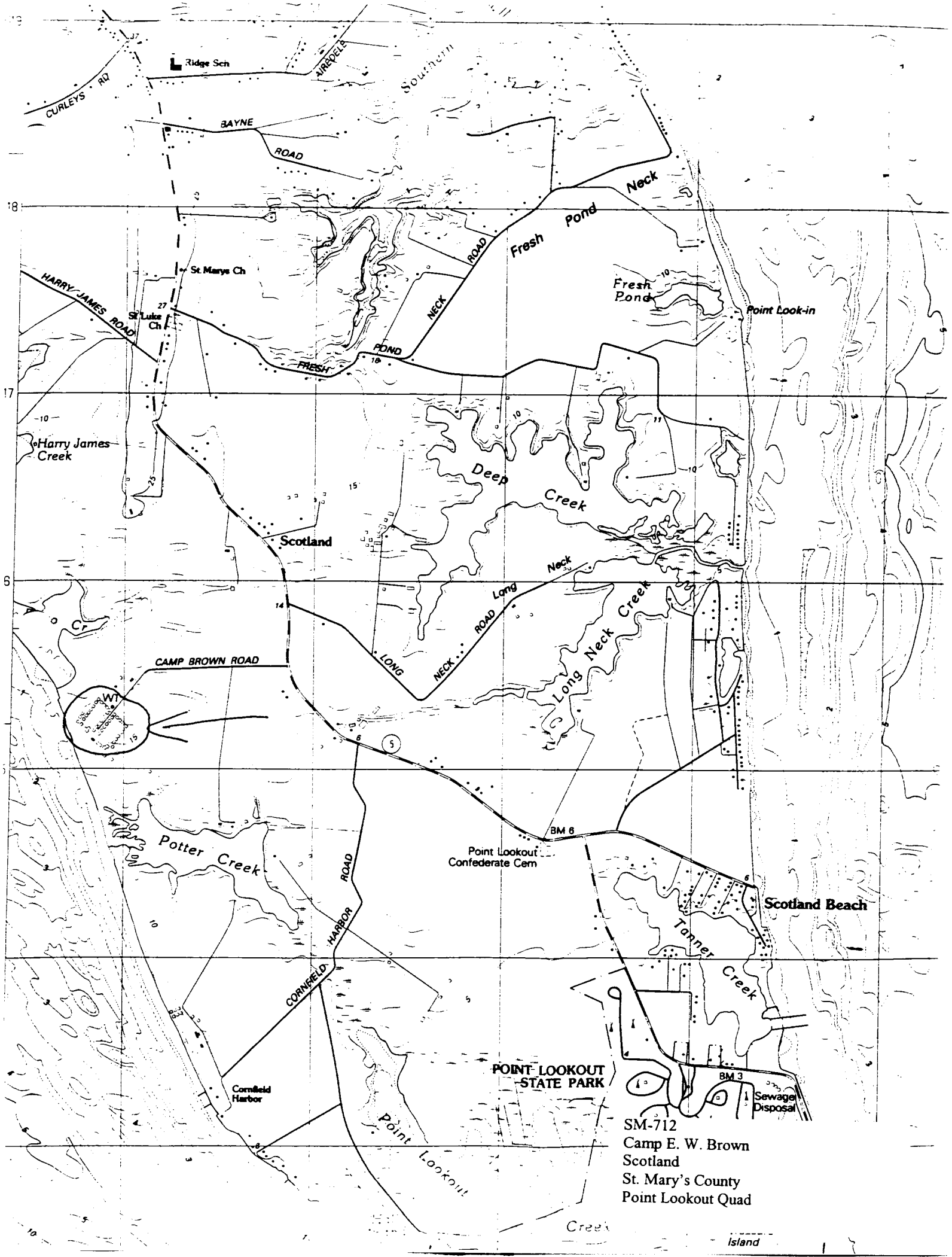
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	St. Mary's County Department of Planning and Zoning	date	7-20-00
street & number	22740 Washington Street	telephone	301-475-4662
city or town	Leonardtown	state	Md

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600





SM-712

Camp E.W. Brown

in Morgan County, Md

Kirk Rance H.

Nov/99

M.A. 3-4-00

Looking NE

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